

Message Text

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43
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6339
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO, AORG
SUBJECT: ILO - PLO REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS

REF: (A) STATE 100336 (B) STATE 112695

1. PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION HAS MADE DIRECT APPEAL FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION. IN LETTER DATED MAY 30 ADDRESSED TO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD AND RECEIVED ON JUNE 3, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE PLO REQUESTED OBSERVER STATUS IN ILO. SIGNATURE ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL WAS ILLEGIBLE.

2. BLANCHARD CALLED MEETING WITH OFFICERS OF ILO GOVERNING BODY EVENING JUNE 6 TO DISCUSS STRATEGY FOR HANDLING LETTER. ATTENDING WERE CHAIRMAN MUÑOZ-LEDO (MEXICO), EMPLOYER VICE CHAIRMAN BERGENSTROM (SWEDEN) AND MUHR (FRG) SUBSTITUTING FOR ABSENT WORKER VICE CHAIRMAN MORRIS (CANADA).

3. INITIAL DECISION IS TO ATTEMPT CONFINE ISSUE TO GOVERNING BODY FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. WAS NOTED THAT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS HAS BEFORE IT RESO-

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LUTION EXTENDING INVITATIONS TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND

THAT NO SEPARATE DECISION ON PLO SHOULD BE MADE UNTIL DISPOSITION THAT RESOLUTION KNOWN. BLANCHARD ALSO NOTED THAT LETTER ADDRESSED TO HIM AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ILO NOT SECRETARY GENERAL OF CONFERENCE. IN FORMER CAPACITY HE IS RESPONSIBLE TO GOVERNING BODY AND SHOULD PROPERLY CONSULT WITH GB OFFICERS ON PLO REQUEST.

4. COMMENT. IF REQUEST IS CONTAINED WITHIN GB, AT MINIMUM, PLO PROBABLY WILL BE ACCORDED STATUS SIMILAR TO THAT WON LAST YEAR BY AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES WHO WERE INVITED TO CONFERENCE BUT PARTICIPATION LIMITED TO DEBATE ON DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT. IF ATTEMPTS TO CONTAIN REQUEST FAILS, AND ISSUE COMES BEFORE CONFERENCE IS LIKELY THAT PLO WILL BE ACCORDED STATUS ALLOWING FOR WIDER PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE SUCH

AS OBSERVER PARTICIPATION ON CONFERENCE COMMITTEES. THE STALL IS ON AND NEXT FEW DAYS SHOULD REVEAL WHETHER OR NOT IT IS GOING TO WORK. IF IT DOESN'T USDEL WILL BE FACED WITH A CONFERENCE VOTE ON THE PLO REQUEST. THIS IS FIRST TIME USDEL AWARE THAT INITIATIVE HAS COME DIRECTLY FROM PLO. USDEL NOTES THAT SIMILAR SITUATIONS IN RECENT CONFERENCES OF WHO AND UPU, IN WHICH USDEL INSTRUCTED TO ABSTAIN, INVOLVED INITIATIVES BY ARAB AND AFRICAN STATES ON BEHALF OF ALL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY OAU AND LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES.

5. USDEL HAS INFORMED ISRAELI DEL OF ABOVE.

6. USDEL NOT CERTAIN IF DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE (REFTELS) FOR DEALING WITH GROUPS RECOGNIZED BY LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES, WOULD APPLY IF PLO REQUEST IS ACTED ON BY ILO CONFERENCE, AND REQUESTS INSTRUCTIONS. ISSUE MIGHT SURFACE ABOUT JUNE 12. ABRAMS

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